

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-9 and 11 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended and claims 3 and 10 are canceled.

The undersigned appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. However, for reasons as discussed below, all the claims are now believed to be allowable, and thus reconsideration and re-examination is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chiozzi (U.S. Patent No. 6,060,940) in view of Shulman (U.S. Patent No. 6,064,258). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

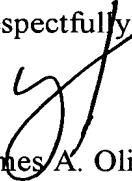
In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 10. Thus, claims 1 and 4-9 and 11 contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: December 22, 2003

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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